

For Immediate Release
June 23, 2025

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Media Release

New CSU-CCSD Pathways Program Offers Dual Enrollment and Direct Admission Options to CSU

Office of
Communications

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Charleston, SC - Charleston Southern University (CSU) and Charleston County School District (CCSD) are launching the CSU-CCSD Collegiate Pathways Program, a new dual enrollment initiative designed to increase access to college-level coursework for high school students. Beginning in Fall 2025, the program will pilot at three locations: North Charleston High School and R.B. Stall High School, as well as St. John's High School via the Academy of Advanced Academics. Importantly, students who successfully complete the Collegiate Pathways Program will receive direct admission options to Charleston Southern University, making the transition to college seamless and accessible. While participation in the program does not obligate students to attend CSU, they will have a guaranteed pathway should they choose to apply and enroll.

At R.B. Stall High School and North Charleston High School, the program will serve 15–20 eligible 11th and 12th grade students who will have the opportunity to take college courses through CSU while remaining enrolled in high school. These courses will help students earn transferable college credit and fulfill South Carolina's College Readiness requirement, which is an important graduation benchmark. To qualify, students must have at least a 3.0 unweighted GPA and complete a formal application process. Tuition for the program will be fully covered by CCSD, with only a small participation fee required.

At St. John's High School, the Academy of Advanced Academics will begin with a cohort of 15–20 ninth-grade students. The academic offerings will include a combination of Honors courses, Advanced Placement (AP), and CSU dual enrollment courses, enabling students to get a head start on their college journey and meet the state's College Readiness criteria before graduating high school.

CCSD and CSU are collaborating to provide the best instructional experience for each campus, ensuring that course delivery, student support, and academic expectations are tailored to meet the unique needs of each school community.

"We are grateful for our partnership with CSU that will expand opportunities for our students," said CCSD Superintendent Anita Huggins. "This initiative not only

allows them to earn college credit while still in high school but also empowers them to take charge of their academic journey and future success. It's a proud moment for our district and a big win for our students and families."

Vice President of Enrollment Management at CSU, Dr. Anthony Turner, confirmed this collaboration is focused on providing exceptional educational opportunities for students.

"Charleston Southern University is thrilled to announce this new partnership with Charleston County School District, a collaboration that is dedicated to providing exceptional educational opportunities for students," said Turner. "This program will offer students not only dual enrollment, but direct admissions, and a variety of other opportunities currently in development. We are unwavering in our commitment to enhancing students' educational experiences and providing them with the necessary resources to succeed and achieve their dreams."

R.B. Stall High School Principal Steve Larson called the initiative "another example of our higher education partners stepping forward to support our College and Career Readiness goals."

North Charleston High School Principal Henry Darby said the program will be transformative for his students.

"We are incredibly grateful for our partnership with CSU," said Darby. "Their commitment to providing dual enrollment opportunities will open doors for our students. It's a game-changer—not only in terms of academic growth, but also in building confidence and a clearer vision for their future."

St. John's High School Principal Jermaine Joyner echoed the enthusiasm.

"This program opens incredible doors for our students and affirms that college and career success are within reach for every learner at St. John's," said Joyner.

For more information, contact the Office of Communications at (843) 937-6303.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally accredited school district committed to providing equitable and quality educational opportunities for all its students. CCSD is the second-largest school system in South Carolina and represents a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves approximately 51,000 students in 90 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse portfolio of educational options and specialized programs delivered to the students of CCSD through neighborhood, magnet, IB (International Baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools and programs. Rich educational opportunities for students include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; military; dual credit; and many more.